

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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R 211409Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3613
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS REACTION TO RABIN INVITATION
AND US-JORDAN COMMUNIQUE

1. SUMMARY: ISRAELI PRESS COMMENTARY REFLECTS CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE EROSION IN US-ISRAELI RELATIONS, BUT ALSO VIEWS INVITATION TO RABIN AS OPPORTUNITY FOR GOI TO PUSH AGAIN FOR NEXT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT. END SUMMARY.

2. DAVAR EDITORIAL STATES " KISSINGER'S STYLE USED IN THE ISSUE OF 'SEPARATION OF FORCES WITH JORDAN' AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF TIMING OF RABIN'S INVITATION TO US... IS REGRETTABLE AND MUST BE TREATED WITH RESERVATIONS." BUT, EDITORIAL ADDS,"TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS ABOUT SUBSTANTIVE US POSITIONS SEEMS UNJUSTIFIED, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE ISRAEL IS NOT HELPLESS WHEN IT COMES TO PROTECTING ITS MITAL INTERESTS. ALSO THE US WILL HARDLY WANT TO MAKE UNREALISTIC PROPOSALS WHICH WILL ONLY LEAD TO THE

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DIPLOMATIC DEADLOCK WHICH IS IN NOBODY'S INTEREST

AND WHICH NOBODY WANTS."

3. DAVAR'S WASHINGTON, WRITER BARNEA "ADVISES" RABIN NOT TO RUSH TO US. BARNEA INTERPRETS US REQUEST FOR RABIN TO COME IN EARLY SEPTEMBER AS PRESSURE, ADDING THAT, IN VIEW OF PRESENT STATE OF ISRAEL'S AID REQUESTS AND PREVAILING INTERNAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL " WE SHOULD ASK OURSELVES IF WE ARE READY TO ENTER THE NEXT STAGE... RABIN WILL DO WELL TO TRY AND CLARIFY THE QUESTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF US PROMISES BEFORE HIS VISIT, RATHER THAN TRY AND DO IT DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON."

4. HAARETZ (MMARGALIT), CITING DEPT SPOKESMAN'S REFUSAL TO EXPRESS RESERVATION RE DELIVERY OF SOVIET ARMS TO SYRIA, US-JORDANIAN COMMUNIQUE AND MANNER IN WHICH RABIN'S INVITATION TO WASHINGTON HAS BEEN DEALT WITH AS EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS THAT SHOULD GIVE CAUSE FOR ANXIETY, WRITES " BECAUSE THE INTERNAL STRENGTH OF ISRAEL AND ITS GOVT ARE GREATER THAN WHAT KISSINGER THINKS,... IT SHOULD BE BETTER IF RABIN DID NOT RUSH TO GIVE A POSITIVE REPLY TO KISSINGER'S INVITATION."

5. DAVAR (TADMOR) IN COMMENTARY ON US-JORDANIAN COMMUNIQUE DISCUSSES SECRETARY'S TACTICS: " THERE HAS BEEN A SERIOUS AMERICAN-ISRAELI EFFORT TO CLARIFY THE POSITIONS AND OPTIONS FOR PROMOTING A SETTLEMENT IN ADVANCE. ALLON HAD EXPLAINED ISRAEL'S DILEMMA ABOUT A WEST-BANK ARRANGEMENT AND ITS OPPOSITION TO A DISengagement, AND THERE HAD BEEN A CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ATTEMPT TO DEPART FROM THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED. NOW, A FEW DAYS LATER, THE AMERICAN POSITION SHOWS A SERIOUS EROSION.. BY FRIDAY, WHEN KISSINGER MET WITH DINITZ, HE CANNOT HAVE BEEN UNAWARE OF WHAT THE COMMUNIQUE WOULD SAY. IN VIEW OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE PAST, ONE CANNOT ESCAPE THE FEELING THAT THIS IS A TRICK, A TACTICAL USE OF THE SURPRISE ELEMENT. AND IF, AS KISSINGER HAS SAID IN THE PAST, THE US DOES NOT OWE ISRAEL ADVANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTICE OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, ISRAEL CANNOT REMAIN SILENT WHERE ITS MOST VITAL INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED... BUT QUESTIONS OF TACTICS APART, THE COMMUNIQUE REFLECTS NOT ONLY SUPPORT FOR HUSSEIN, BUT IS ALSO A SIGNAL TO ISRAEL THAT MATTERS ARE MOVING MUCH FASTER." (THAN ANTICIPATED)

6. ON INVITATION TO RABIN, COMMENTATORS AGREE THAT

GOI WILL APPROVE VISIT AS PROPOSED BY USG. MAARIV (HARIF) WRITES THAT "RABIN WAS INTERESTED IN POSTPONING HIS TRIP AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, BUT... KISSINGER'S INVITATION CONFRONTED ISRAEL WITH FACT ACCOMPLI... RABIN THINKS THAT IT IS NOT WORTH REACHING A CONFRONTATION WITH US OVER THIS ISSUE..." MAARIV ADDS THAT "WASHINGTON TENDS TO ACCEPT RABIN'S IDEA THAT TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT STAGE."

7. ON CONTENTS OF TALKS IN WASHINGTON, HAARETZ (GOLAN) WRITES THAT PM RABIN WILL TELL PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY THAT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN INVOLVING ANY TERRITORIAL WITHDRAWAL WHATSOEVER ON WEST-BANK IS OUT OF THE QUESTION; THE ONLY NEGOTIATIONS FOR PARTIAL SETTLEMENT WITH JORDAN TO WHICH THERE WOULD BE ANY POINT WOULD BE ON PRINCIPLE OF FUNCTIONAL DISENGAGEMENT. HAARETZ ALSO REPORTS THAT RABIN WILL TRY TO PERSUADE US THAT NEXT ROUND OF TALKS SHOULD BE HELD WITH EGYPTIANS.

8. COMMENT: DESPITE ITS GRUMBLING, IT IS OBVIOUS PRESS EXPECTS GOI APPROVAL FOR RABIN ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER. KEATING

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